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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 50% Partly cloudy Sensex 71,947 | Nifty 22,331 | Gold 1,46,635 | Silver 2,38,112 | Dollar 93.78 | Euro 108.08 | GBP 123.68

WHISTLEBLOWERS' FATE

Citizens complain against illegal builders and misuse of vacant sites only to be told to produce papers for houses they have been living in for decades

PAGE 4

DEADLY HISS

Karnataka accounts for nearly 36% of all snakebite deaths in India in 2025, making it highest contributor to national toll

PAGE 6

41,327 cases of unclear registration plates recorded in 2 months in city — tampered plates often make it difficult to identify offending vehicles, delaying probes and allowing violators to evade blame

TWEAK FREAKS BLUR THE SAFETY LINES

Automatic Number Plate Recognition systems too struggle to read such plates accurately

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Defective vehicle number plates are posing a challenge to investigators in hit-and-run and other vehicle-related crimes in the city, despite widespread CCTV surveillance. Blurred registration details continue to delay identification of offenders, with Bengaluru Traffic Police registering 41,327 such cases in the past two months.

Following a recent car drifting incident, Cubbon Park Police registered a fraud case against Ricky Rai for allegedly using a fake registration number on a luxury vehicle.

The incident occurred around 2.40 am on March 21 at Anil Kumble Circle, where a Lamborghini Huracan stalled after drifting. Police seized the car and later found that the number was not officially assigned.

Investigations revealed the vehicle originally had a Delhi registration and was being used in Karnataka without re-registration or tax payment. Police suspect the fake plate was used to evade violations.

> **"The use of defective number plates doesn't pose a challenge when an FIR is filed, but it affects routine enforcement; it becomes challenging in day-to-day policing as fines for violations such as rash driving or signal jumping are linked to vehicle registration numbers**
>
> —Akshay Hakay, DCP Central

With traffic enforcement increasingly dependent on surveillance cameras, defective and non-standard vehicle number plates have become a challenge for the police, impacting both enforcement and crime detection. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems frequently struggle to read such plates accurately.

Akshay Hakay, DCP Central, told BM, "The use of defective number plates doesn't pose a challenge when an FIR is filed, but it affects routine enforcement; it becomes challenging

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

All roads lead to the EV store

With Bill that raises taxes on electric vehicles rolling out from today, everybody in city seems to be in a hurry to acquire their brand new battery-operated vehicle

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With Karnataka all set to roll out the Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, starting Wednesday, Bengaluru has witnessed panic buying of electric vehicles (EV). EV outlets in the city have seen a sharp increase in bookings over the last week, leading to empty shelves in some outlets.

"Since the Bill was passed last week, we have made more than 50 new EV car bookings. Earlier, this number would reach a maximum of 70 in a month. We have almost run out of vehicles and are taking bookings on a first-come, first-served basis," said a store manager of an EV outlet in north Bengaluru.

PAGE 2: NOT APRIL FOOLS': EVERYTHING IS COSTLIER NOW

Another EV car outlet in the city confirmed this trend.

"We are a small outlet, and thus we get nearly 6 to 7 new bookings every month. However, on Tuesday alone, I am processing new bookings of 4 EVs (cars) just at this outlet. Since the lifetime tax will be implemented only after 12 midnight on Tuesday, requests are still pouring in.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Moving stories

The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet is presenting A Tale of Dreams and Destinies based on a classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights, exploring the power of a dream, and the courage it takes to make it real, no matter who you are. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 11 (By invitation) and 12 (Open to all)**

02 Art ahead

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: Until April 12**

03 Front row feast

Loco Lane is elevating the match-day experience from the standard bar stool to the ultimate fan sanctuary. This season, fans can swap the crowded stands for the comfort of premium box seating with the launch of an all-inclusive IPL Live Screening package, blending high-energy sports viewing and gourmet dining. **Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar; When: Until May 31, 5 pm**

04 Cup of joy

Sattva Group is hosting a Coffee Rave, designed to attract young, urban consumers looking for a vibrant community and wellness-led lifestyle. The event features a lively music party, coffee and curated light food. **Where: Sattva City; When: April 4, 9 am**

05 Playful learning

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru will be transformed into a vibrant playground with the launch of Playland, bringing together creativity, play and fun under one roof. Children can explore engaging toy exhibitions, interactive play zones, and hands-on workshops designed to spark creativity and imagination. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: April 4, 12 pm**

Bengalureans may feel the pinch amid sudden price hikes

From power bills to toll fees, widespread increase in tariffs across sectors to come into effect today, making daily life more expensive for residents of Bengaluru

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According to NHAI officials, revised toll rates will apply across major routes, including Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway (File photo)

Bengaluru residents are set to face a sharp rise in living costs from today, as increases in electricity tariffs, water charges and toll fees come into effect alongside key financial and regulatory changes. The start of the new financial year is expected to put additional pressure on household budgets, with both individuals and businesses feeling the impact.

Officials said electricity tariffs across Karnataka are being revised by the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, mainly affecting industrial and commercial consumers. The hike follows revenue losses reported by power distribution companies, which sought revisions to offset deficits. The new rates for 2025-26 will increase costs across categories. In Bengaluru, water tariffs will also rise by 3 per cent, as announced by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, further adding to overall living costs. Beyond utility expenses, several financial and regulatory changes will also come into force. PAN will be mandatory for bill payments exceeding ₹1 lakh at hotels and restaurants. Bengaluru has been included in the list of cities eligible for 50 per cent House Rent Allowance (HRA) benefits, along with four other cities.

Rail passengers will also be affected, as ticket cancellations within eight hours of departure will no longer be eligible for refunds. New labour codes mandate that an employee's basic salary must constitute at least 50 per cent of total cost-to-company, impacting structures. Cash payments at toll plazas will be discontinued, pushing a fully cashless system aimed at transparency.

Beyond utility expenses, several financial and regulatory changes will also come into force, with PAN made mandatory for bill payments exceeding ₹1 lakh at hotels and restaurants, along with changes in rail cancellations and toll hikes

Toll hike

Motorists in and around Bengaluru will face higher travel costs from April 1 as toll charges increase by 3 to 5 per cent across multiple plazas. The revision is expected to add burden on daily commuters and transport operators. According to National Highways Authority of India officials, the hike is linked to the wholesale price index. Car users will pay an additional ₹5 to ₹10 per trip, while commercial vehicles will see increases ranging between ₹15 and ₹40.

According to NHAI officials, the revised toll rates will apply across major routes, including the Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway, where toll plazas at Kaniminike and Sheshagiri Halli will implement the new charges. Similarly, toll plazas at Bagepalli, Sadahalli, Nangli, and Hulikunte and Nallur-Devanahalli on the Satellite Town Ring Road will also see revised rates.

On the Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway, the toll for cars travelling one way across two plazas will increase from ₹345 to ₹355. Mini buses and light commercial vehicles will now have to pay ₹565 instead of ₹555. While car toll rates at select plazas such as Sadahalli, Bagepalli and Gaddur will remain unchanged, other vehicle categories will still see hikes ranging from ₹15 to ₹45.

In addition, the annual toll pass fee has also been revised upward, with the yearly pass cost increasing from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075 for the 2026-27 financial year.

SSLC Exam-1 evaluation to begin on April 8

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has announced that the evaluation of SSLC Exam-1 answer scripts for 2026 will begin from April 8. Evaluation for third language subjects, including Hindi and Sanskrit, will be held on April 9, with deputy chief examiners and assistant examiners instructed to collect their appointment orders. The board has enabled downloading of appointment orders through its website from March 28, directing headmasters of all government, aided and unaided private schools across 35 districts to distribute them to appointed teachers. SSLC Exam-1 is scheduled to conclude on April 2, after which the timetable for Exam-2 will be released, officials said. — BMB

B'luru all set to celebrate Karaga Festival today

Extensive preparations are made for the annual Bengaluru Karaga scheduled for April 1, with the state government estimating a total expenditure of around Rs 1.7 crore. Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said special arrangements are being made to ensure smooth conduct of the festival, including deployment of over 800 police personnel and more than 200 traffic police along the procession routes. Barricades will be installed to manage crowds, especially encouraging participation from people who have settled in Bengaluru from other states. Authorities have been directed to ensure adequate mobile toilets, drinking water, CCTV surveillance, sanitation and uninterrupted lighting along the route.

File photo

Traffic restrictions

In view of the historic Sri Dharmaraya Swamy Temple Karaga Festival in Thigalarapete, Bengaluru Traffic Police have announced restrictions from midnight of April 1 to 6 am on April 2, 2026, along major procession routes. Vehicular traffic will be restricted between City Market Circle and Mysore Bank Circle via Avenue Road, with commuters advised to use alternate routes through SJP Road, Town Hall, and Kempegowda Road.

Further restrictions will be in place on April 2 due to chariot parking and movement. Vehicular movement will remain restricted between City Market Circle and Mysore Bank Circle from 9 pm on April 1 to 7 pm on April 2. Additional diversions will be implemented around Cottonpete Main Road and Shantala Circle during chariot movement post 4 pm. — BMB

Traffic curbs for Muthyalamma Devi Chariot Festival

The Pulakeshinagar Traffic Police have announced traffic restrictions in parts of East Bengaluru from 6 am on Wednesday to 6 pm on Thursday, owing to the Muthyalamma Devi Chariot Festival. The curbs will be enforced on key stretches including Coles Park Junction, Seppings Road, St John's Church Road, Narayana Pillai Street, War Memorial Junction, and Haines Junction, where vehicular movement will be regulated in phases to ensure smooth conduct of the festival.

Traffic will be restricted in both directions between Coles Park Junction and Seppings Road, as well as St John's Church Road and Narayana Pillai Street. Partial restrictions will apply between War Memorial Junction and Haines Junction. Commuters heading towards Shivajinagar and nearby areas have been advised to take alternate routes via Assay Road, Sindhi Colony Junction, Coles Road, Haines Road, and Masjid Road to avoid congestion.

Parking has been prohibited on both sides of several roads, including Narayana Pillai Street, Seppings Road, Nala Road, Thimmaiah Road, Haines Road, AM Road, and St John's Church Road, for the duration of the restriction period. The advisory, issued by Sahil Bagla, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic East Division, urges the public to cooperate and follow diversions to ensure hassle free movement during the festival. — BMB

CRIME FILES

21 mobile phones stolen from M Chinnaswamy Stadium recovered

KAUSHIK JN

The Cubbon Park Police Station recovered 21 mobile phones worth Rs 18 lakh on RCB match day at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 28, 2026, following complaints from spectators about theft during the game.

Acting on the public's complaints, police identified one main accused along with several juveniles in conflict with law, who were taken into custody.

From their possession, the recovered phones were seized, and police are continuing efforts to trace more juveniles and others associated with the theft. Further investigation is underway. —BMB

Special operation leads to major drug seizure

Acting on a tip-off, police launched a special operation after learning that substances including MDMA, ganja, hydro ganja, and heroin were being sold within the jurisdictions of Yelahanka New Town, Adugodi, Bharathinagar, Jalahalli, and Pulikeshinagar police stations. A case was registered under the NDPS Act, and raids were conducted in the area.

Following the raids, a total of 11 persons were apprehended, comprising two foreigners, one individual from another state, and the remaining accused being locals.

From their possession and hideouts, police seized 2.7 kg of MDMA, 31.396 kg of ganja, 220 g of hydro ganja, and 162 g of heroin, along with a two-wheeler used in the offence. The wholesale value of the seized drugs is estimated at Rs 2.57 crore, with a market value of Rs 5.14 crore.

The 11 accused have been produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody, while one individual remains absconding. Police officials are continuing their efforts to trace the missing accused and the suppliers connected to the drugs. —BMB

Couple found dead, suicide suspected

A married couple was found dead in an apparent case of suicide at a residential complex in North Bengaluru on Monday evening. The incident occurred at an apartment in Bhartiya City under the jurisdiction of Kothanur Police Station.

The deceased have been identified as Bhanu Chander Reddy Kunta (32) and Bibi Shaziya Siraj (31), both hailing from Telangana and residing in Bengaluru since August last year. Preliminary investigations suggest that Bhanu Chander died by suicide by hanging inside their home. On finding his body, Shaziya is believed to have rushed to the 17th floor of the apartment and jumped, resulting in her death.

Officials said the couple had been married for nearly nine years and had lived in the apartment for over a year. While Shaziya was working with a multinational firm, Bhanu Chander was reportedly unemployed.

Investigators stated that Bhanu Chander had earlier been employed in the United States but returned to India in June last year after losing his job. Police added that he was undergoing treatment for mental health-related issues. Shaziya, who had recently started a new job in Bengaluru, was said to be coping with increased work pressure.

She had travelled to Hyderabad last week to visit her family and returned on Monday. According to police, she panicked upon finding her husband's body. A suicide note, suspected to have been written by Bhanu Chander, was recovered from the house.

Further investigation is underway. Police have registered two cases of unnatural death under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). —BMB

Man stabbed to death by co-worker

In a shocking workplace incident, a 30-year-old man was brutally killed by a former co-worker following a dispute at an industrial unit in Peenya 2nd Stage on Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Rahul R, factory supervisor, who was working at Power Plasmic Pvt Ltd. The complaint was lodged by his younger brother, Rohit R, who stated that both of them, along with their father, were employed at the same company. The accused, Hanumanth alias Ajay, a welder from Yadgir, had been working at the unit for nearly seven years but had recently been irregular to duty.

According to the complaint, Rahul had confronted Hanumanth around 20 days ago over his repeated absence and warned him about disciplinary action if he failed to report to work regularly. Following this, the accused allegedly stopped coming to work.

On March 30, due to heavy workload, Rahul and a group of workers returned to the factory after having their meals around 9 pm to continue their duties. At around 10.10 pm, while unloading materials from a lorry, Hanumanth reportedly arrived at the spot armed with a knife and suddenly attacked Rahul. He stabbed him multiple times on the back, hands, and head.

Co-workers intervened and rushed Rahul to Victoria Hospital. However, doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police were alerted through the Hoysala emergency helpline and visited the scene. A case of murder has been registered and the accused has been arrested. Further investigation is ongoing. —BMB

Counterfeit watch racket busted

KAUSHIK JN

A legal representative of Titan Company Limited lodged a complaint with the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Economic Offences Wing (EOW), on March 18, 2026, alleging that five shops in Chickpet, Sultanpalya Main Road, Ganganagar, and Dinnur Main Road were engaged in illegally selling counterfeit watches.

The complaint stated that shop owners were unlawfully selling counterfeit watches and spare parts of reputed brands such as Titan, Fastrack, and Sonata, thereby cheating customers.

CCB officers conducted raids over two days, from March 18 to 20, and seized 670 counterfeit watches of various models and 414 spare parts belonging to the said brands. The total value of the seized items is estimated at Rs 25 lakh.

Five persons have been booked in connection with the racket under Cr No 28/2026, invoking Sections 63 of the Copyright Act and 318(4) of BNS 2023. The accused have been identified as Harish Kumar (44), Khaleemullah (70), Abdul Rehman (42), Syed Zaid Iqbal (29), and Mohammad Abid Hussain (53). —BMB

Suo moto case filed over misleading video targeting Dr G Parameshwara

A suo moto case has been registered after a provocative video with a derogatory caption targeting the Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and allegedly inciting communal tensions surfaced on social media.

According to police, the complainant, who was on duty at the police station, noticed the content while monitoring social media platforms. An unidentified individual had posted a video on an X (formerly Twitter) account by an objectionable tagline questioning the Home Minister.

In the complaint it revealed that the video was originally aired by the media and showed an incident involving a teacher being assaulted at a private medical college in Nelamangala taluk. However, the clip was reshared with a misleading caption claiming a Hindu student was attacked by members of another community.

The post also comes following an incident on March 23, when a professor, Dr Abdul Rehman Sharif, allegedly proposed to a student during an ongoing class at a private institute of medical sciences. The incident triggered outrage among students, following which the professor was allegedly assaulted. This incident also sparked debate, as the college is allegedly associated with Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara.

Police stated that the post appeared to be intended to spread misinformation, provoke communal disharmony, and hurt religious sentiments. Police officials have registered a case and are investigating further. —BMB

Former MD of KCTU convicted in Lokayukta case

In a significant development, a special court in Bengaluru has convicted V Muniyappa, former Managing Director of the Karnataka Council for Technical Upgradation, in a disproportionate assets case registered by the Karnataka Lokayukta.

The case, registered in 2014 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, followed allegations that Muniyappa had amassed wealth beyond his known sources of income. A search led to the discovery of assets valued at Rs 3.31 crore, which was found to be 77.78 per cent higher than his legitimate earnings. Following a detailed investigation, the Lokayukta police filed a chargesheet, and the matter was taken up for trial in the Special Court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases.

On March 28, 2026, the 23rd Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge (Special Judge), KM Radhakrishna, pronounced the verdict, convicting Muniyappa under relevant sections. —BMB

Transgender Rights Amendment Act receives Presidential assent

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act 2026 was approved by President Droupadi Murmu on March 30, 2026. Prior to receiving Presidential assent, more than 140 activists, legal experts, and members of the transgender community had written to the President seeking modifications to provisions of the 2019 law.

The approval has triggered widespread backlash from members of the community, with social media emerging as a key space of resistance. Critics have described the amendment as "regressive" and "detached from ground realities," arguing that it complicates access to identity documents and welfare schemes, which already face low uptake. Concerns have also been raised that the law could increase harassment through additional layers of scrutiny, with community members highlighting that no representatives were involved in its drafting.

As per the new law, stricter verification mechanisms and procedural requirements will apply to identity certification. Activists argue that this undermines the principle of self-identification, previously recognised by the Supreme Court, which had allowed gender-fluid persons dignity and safety.

Experts note that increased reliance on certification could gatekeep many due to absence of standardised guidelines

Concerns have also been raised regarding welfare measures, protections against discrimination, and reservations, with the law described as containing distortions. Members of the community fear that, due to poor implementation, the legislation will remain ineffective despite the changes.

From a regulatory standpoint, concerns are being raised about the involvement of medical and administrative authorities in gender identity recognition. Experts note that increased reliance on certification and procedural approvals could cause delays, encourage misuse at the implementation level, and gatekeep many individuals due to the absence of clear, standardised interstate guidelines.

Activists have further questioned whether the amendment aligns with fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution. With growing opposition, rights groups are considering approaching the courts to challenge the provisions, which are being described as restrictive and inconsistent. Legal experts emphasise that excessive procedural barriers may be interpreted as discriminatory and could infringe upon personal liberty and dignity. The backlash has translated into calls for policy reconsideration and demands for more inclusive consultations. —BMB

When watchdogs look away

High Court order ignored as whistleblowers targeted, while illegal construction thrives in elite Whitefield residential layout

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Residents staging protest against illegal buildings at Prestige Whistling Layout

Whistleblowers are supposed to be honoured and rewarded for alerting authorities to irregularities, but Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Whitefield Sub-Division engineers appear intent on punishing them instead of taking strict action against the construction of illegal buildings. It is both shocking and disturbing to witness the audacity of the BECC Whitefield Sub-Division engineers in failing to honour the High Court order.

This concerns the plight of the gullible residents of Prestige Whistling Palms Layout. Most of them are senior citizens who have been residing in the layout without any problems. However, their serene lives were disturbed when a few businessmen began misusing vacant sites meant for residential purposes.

Court intervention

Disturbed by the illegal constructions, members of the Prestige Whistling Palms Owners and Residents Welfare Association filed a petition in the High Court in February 2025. After hearing the petition, the High Court partly allowed the writ petition. The Court also directed respondent No. 2 (the Assistant Executive Engineer, BBMP, Mahadevapura Zone, Hoodi Subdivision) to conclude the proceedings initiated under Section 248 of the BBMP Act, 2020, pursuant to the issuance of the provisional order under sub-sections (1) and (2), strictly in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Senior citizens allege harassment, officials issue notices instead enforcement, rogue builders exploit loopholes, violations escalate unchecked across neighbourhood

In an oral order, the High Court stated that the learned counsel appearing for the BBMP, on instructions, submitted that a provisional order had already been issued, and that the subsequent steps contemplated under Section 248(3) of the BBMP Act would be duly undertaken and concluded within a time-bound period.

Expressing concern over the delay in implementing the High Court order, Anselma Vas, a resident, said that the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer had issued notices to residents to submit their building documents instead of taking action against those responsible for illegal constructions.

Rules manipulated

A resident, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Whistling Palms is one of the first projects of Prestige, where most residents are senior citizens. "Over the past two years, encouraged by GBA inaction on illegal buildings in the neighbouring Whitefield Rose Layout, many small-time illegal builders have moved in. Their method is simple: they approach the GBA planning department and obtain multi-level residential permissions by providing false information, such as showing the road width as 40 feet when it is actually only 20 feet. Once construction begins, they assure residents that the property is being built for personal use. When residents question violations of setbacks, officials are allegedly paid off and construction is completed," the resident said.

Nilofer Suleman, a resident, said that most residents are senior citizens who have had G+1 homes in the layout for the past 10 years.

"This issue began over a year ago when a builder, Manohar Rao Vayyavuru, purchased one of the plots in our layout. He demolished the compound wall and constructed a five-storey commercial building despite having only a residential permit. A demolition order was passed against him, but no action has been taken for six months. Paradoxically, we are being targeted at his behest, with notices repeatedly pasted on our gates for BBMP inspections. Authorities are overlooking a serious violation by the builder and targeting whistleblowers, many of whom are senior citizens and women. We have been running from pillar to post for over a year, but no action has been taken against the violator," she said.

Meanwhile, the BECC Assistant Executive Engineer said that all the problems had been resolved. "We have issued notices to residents to submit their documents," the official said. The BECC Joint Commissioner was not available for comment.

PG mafia

The "PG mafia" in Mahadevapura is flagrantly violating zoning laws and depleting groundwater through illegal borewells while authorities remain complicitly silent. These unregulated commercial establishments have become serious fire hazards, as evidenced by recent incidents that the government continues to ignore. There is an urgent need for a crackdown on these violators to restore public safety and uphold the rule of law. The state must intervene before administrative negligence leads to another preventable catastrophe, said Ashok Mruthyunjaya, Bangalore East Chairman, AAP.

BBMP action on violations

Section 248 of the BBMP Act, 2020 empowers the civic body to order the demolition or alteration of buildings or works constructed unlawfully. It outlines the procedural steps for handling unauthorised constructions, including issuing notices, conducting hearings, and executing demolition if owners fail to comply within a specified time.

Section 248(1) of the BBMP Act, 2020 empowers the Zonal Commissioner to issue a provisional order requiring the owner or builder to stop construction and demolish unauthorised work, or to show cause why the order should not be confirmed, particularly in cases where construction violates approved plans or by-laws.

Sub-section (3) of Section 248 of the BBMP Act, 2020 enables the Zonal Commissioner to confirm the provisional order issued under sub-sections (1) and (2) for demolition or alteration of unauthorised buildings if the owner fails to provide satisfactory justification. This order is binding, and appeals lie with the Chief Commissioner.

Unclear plates prove stumbling blocks to crime investigations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in day-to-day policing as fines for violations such as rash driving or signal jumping are linked to vehicle registration numbers."

He further explained that police rely heavily on vehicle numbers to trace offenders involved in traffic violations or crimes. However, when the number plate is unclear or unregistered, identifying the vehicle becomes difficult. Even if the vehicle is traced through engine or chassis numbers, it often leads only to the registered owner and not necessarily the person using it at the time. These factors, he noted, complicate investigations involving defective number plates.

Speaking about the delay in filing another FIR in the car drifting incident, he explained that the police could not immediately conclude whether it was an illegal act or something else. He said verifications were required, which were carried out in coordination with the Traffic and RTO departments. Only after cross-checking, tracing, and confirming the details, was the case registered.

Traffic police officials say that blurred, tampered, or improperly designed registration plates often make it difficult to identify offending vehicles, delaying investigations and allowing violators to evade accountability. In several cases, even high-quality CCTV footage fails to capture legible registration numbers, slowing down the process of tracking down suspects.

According to data from the Bengaluru Traffic Police, over 4.2 lakh cases have been registered against vehicles with defective number plates in the past three years. As many as 1,50,861 cases were booked in 2023, 1,57,665 in 2024 and 1,50,861 cases were booked in 2025. Alarmingly, 41,327 cases have already been recorded this year, indicating that the issue continues to persist despite ongoing enforcement efforts.

The officer said that while most delivery personnel use proper number plates, some deliberately obscure them to evade e-challans, and those involved in stunts like wheelies often avoid displaying plates altogether to escape action. He added that defective number plates are not just a traffic violation but a serious safety concern, as unclear plates hinder vehicle identification in hit-and-run cases and crimes like theft and robbery, creating major gaps in investigations.

A video from early March 2026 showing a biker performing dangerous wheelies with a woman pillion rider on Manyata Tech Park Road and Thanisandra had sparked concern. Neither rider was wearing a helmet, and the bike bore a suspicious number plate, UP-07-62. The stunt, performed amid traffic, raised safety concerns. Residents and social media users have urged the City Police to take strict action against the offenders. The police have been conducting regular drives to penalise offenders and raise awareness about the importance of maintaining standardised number plates as per regulations. However, enforcement remains a challenge due to the sheer volume of vehicles on city roads. A senior traffic police official said that stricter implementation of High-Security Registration Plates (HSRP) could help address the issue.

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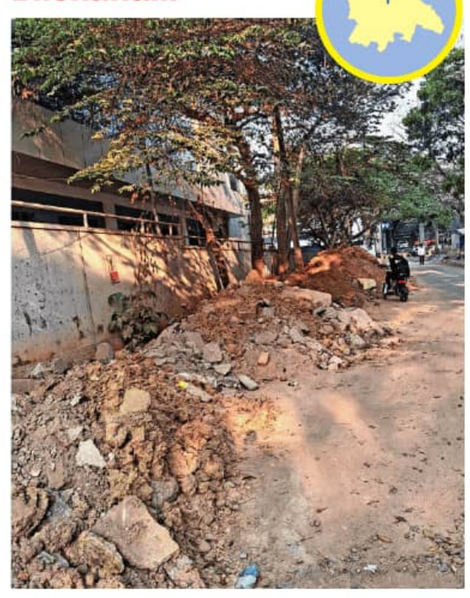
Debris neglect

Bilekahalli


Debris has been lying unattended for two months on Pride Apartment Road, next to a Hospital, Bilekahalli, despite repeated BBMP complaints.

Battered road

K Narayanapura Road

A badly-damaged road near Golden Palms on K. Narayanapura Road is causing major inconvenience to daily commuters.

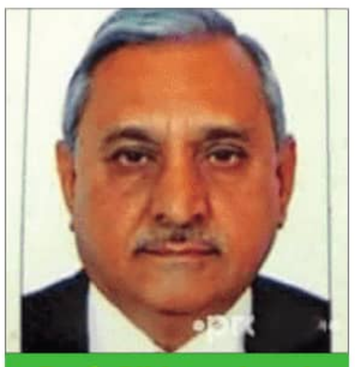
Cable chaos

Banaswadi

Unattended cable work for six months near Shivaparvathi Kalyana Mantapa in OMBR Layout is leading to garbage accumulation and rodent issues.

Dr. S. Bikkamchand Saklecha: A Legacy of Compassion and Service

Dr. S. Bikkamchand Saklecha began his medical journey with unwavering dedication and, over a distinguished 49-year career, has founded Santosh Multi-Speciality Hospital in Frazer Town, Santosh Diagnostics and Santosh group of Institutes, shaping and inspiring the next generation of healthcare professionals. In recognition of his decades-long service in delivering healthcare, training future caregivers, and conducting health camps, Dr Saklecha has been conferred the VK-BM Health Excellence Award.



Dr. S. Bikkamchand Saklecha, Pediatrician, Santosh Hospital, Frazer Town

Lifelong Commitment

For decades, Dr. Saklecha has been a beacon of health services for the community. After completing his MBBS degree in 1976 from Gulbarga's Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College (MRMC) and a diploma in child health from University of Bombay in 1983, he devoted his career to paediatrics. Till date, he has treated thousands of children, forging strong bonds with their families through care and compassion.

Growing Excellence

Starting his career in various hospitals, Dr. Saklecha founded Santosh Hospital in 1984. Later, he expanded to R.T. Nagar, establishing another facility to offer advanced medical services. From a modest 60-bed hospital, his vision and relentless effort have transformed it into a 200-bed multi-speciality centre, serving the community with state-of-the-art healthcare. He fondly recalls that he wanted to have the best of facilities and to achive that he travelled across the world to understand the developments and bring them to Bangalore while securing bank loans to make his dream a reality and credits the community for supporting his journey.

Trusted Expertise

With unmatched experience in treating childhood illnesses and infections, Dr. Saklecha delivers timely and effective care. Alongside family support and dedicated teams, he continues to lead Santosh Hospital, Santosh Diagnostics and Santosh Group of Institutions with unwavering commitment and a spirit of service.

Community Care

A Jain by faith, Dr. Saklecha extends healthcare services to Jain monks, personally visiting them to provide essential medical attention. He offers free or subsidised services to patients from lower- and middle-income groups and regularly organises health camps to serve the wider community.

Child Health

A trusted Paediatrician, Dr. Saklecha ensures children receive expert care for a wide range of illnesses. His family's strong medical background, combined with the latest technology and treatment methods, enables him to deliver effective healthcare.

Through Santosh Group of Institutions, he also trains caregivers while providing home healthcare services for senior citizens, ensuring medical support reaches every doorstep.

Pioneering Diagnostics

Recognising the need for accessible diagnostic services, Dr. Saklecha opened Bengaluru's first diagnostic centre in 1999. His vision was to bring comprehensive medical care under one roof, simplifying healthcare for patients amid the growing competition among multi-speciality hospitals.

Santosh Diagnostic & Hospital
No 69/1 St Johns church street , Bengaluru-560005
Phone: 080-49254925

Advanced Diagnostics, Doorstep Convenience

Dr. Santosh Saklecha has revolutionised patient care by bringing advanced diagnostic services right to the doorstep. As Director of Santosh Hospital, Frazer Town, he is the visionary behind 'Ghar Pe Diagnostics', an initiative that blends innovation, convenience, and compassion, setting new benchmarks in modern healthcare. His pioneering approach has earned recognition from VK-BM Health Excellence, reflecting his unwavering commitment to service.

Dr Santosh Saklecha, Rheumatologist, Santosh Hospital, Frazer Town. Founder-Ghar Pe Diagnostics

Stellar Credentials

A graduate of Kolar's Devaraj Urs Medical College (MBBS, 2006), Dr. Saklecha completed his MD in General Medicine from MS Ramaiah Medical College (2010) and a Fellowship of certification from the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR). (2014). He specializes in managing autoimmune diseases and connective tissue disorders, including complex cases of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), psoriasis, and osteoarthritis. Inspired by his father, renowned paediatrician Dr. S. Bikkamchand Saklecha, he has built Santosh Hospital into a centre of excellence for compassionate, patient-focused care.

Leadership & Expertise

An active member of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM) and the Indian Rheumatology Association, Dr. Saklecha also leads the Santosh Group of Institutions. Beyond clinical practice, he has contributed to over 23 research studies, advancing medical knowledge and refining patient care standards.

Home-Based Diagnostics

Through 'Ghar Pe Diagnostics', Dr. Saklecha provides essential diagnostic services to seniors, differently-abled individuals, and patients who face mobility challenges all done at the comfort of their homes, From X-rays, ECGs, and heart monitoring to cancer screenings and specialised lab tests, every service is delivered with precision and care at home. This eliminates repeated hospital visits, saves precious time for families, and ensures timely detection of medical conditions. Using state-of-the-art equipment, results are accurate, fast, and actionable, allowing treatment to begin at the right moment. Dr. Santosh Saklecha's initiatives have earned widespread appreciation for transforming the way healthcare reaches people—providing reliable, rapid, and compassionate diagnostics, right at the doorstep.

Innovation at Core

Santosh Multi-Speciality Hospital integrates cutting-edge technology across all services. From advanced cardiac diagnostics to prenatal and geriatric testing, Dr. Saklecha ensures world-class care is delivered efficiently and affordably. Driven by the vision of accessible, high-quality healthcare, he continues to innovate with new concepts, making medical services faster, smarter, and more patient-friendly than ever.

GHAR PE Diagnostics
96115 08886

Nearly 36% of all snakebite deaths reported in India in 2025 from K'taka

Sharp rise in state snakebite deaths exposes reporting gaps, rural risks, and underscores urgent need for stronger, faster, more accessible healthcare response nationwide now

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Snakebite crisis reflects intersection of agriculture exposure, healthcare delays, and evolving disease reporting systems in India.

A worrying spike in snakebite fatalities puts states under scrutiny, revealing deeper issues in rural healthcare access, awareness, and emergency response while also exposing inconsistencies in how states report cases.

Karnataka alone accounts for nearly 36 per cent of all snakebite deaths reported in India in 2025, making it the highest contributor to the national toll and raising serious public health concerns. According to official data presented in Parliament recently, the state recorded 157 deaths out of 431 reported across the country, marking a sharp rise from 19 in 2023 and 101 in 2024.

The steep increase has placed Karnataka at the top, ahead of states such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Odisha, and has triggered alarm over both the scale and pace of fatalities. The data highlights not only Karnataka's position but also a worrying upward trend. Across India, snakebite deaths have more than doubled from 183 in 2023 to 431 in 2025, but Karnataka's rise has been particularly sharp. The state's growing share points to either a surge in incidents, improved reporting, or a combination of both.

Experts link higher snakebite mortality to rural exposure, intensive agricultural activity and delays in accessing timely medical care. Many victims still struggle to reach healthcare facilities quickly, especially in remote areas where awareness and infrastructure remain limited.

However, environmentalists and wildlife experts caution against reading the numbers in isolation. "Karnataka being at the top does not necessarily mean it is the most affected in absolute terms. It is one of the few states that has made snakebite a notifiable disease, ensuring better reporting. Many states may still be underreporting cases," said an environmental activist, pointing to gaps in national data collection.

Supporting this view, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh said the Centre has advised all states to notify snakebite as a notifiable disease under public health laws. "This step will help in accurate tracking, timely reporting and better management of snakebite cases across the country," he stated, underlining the need for uniform data systems.

Karnataka is among eight states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra, that have already taken this step. Experts believe this move has improved transparency in reporting compared to states where cases often go unrecorded.

At the same time, specialists stress that the rise cannot be dismissed entirely as a reporting effect. Public health professionals point to persistent gaps in awareness, early diagnosis and the availability of anti-venom, particularly in rural belts. A health expert said, "As snakebite cases surge in the country, Karnataka's data stands out, not just for its scale but for the urgent questions it raises on preparedness, reporting and response."

Penguins may soon arrive at Mysuru

In a first for the state, penguins may soon find a home in Mysuru, with plans underway to establish a dedicated penguin park at Karanji Lake. The state government has initiated steps to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and is currently searching for specialised experts to design and develop the facility, which is expected to become a major attraction.

Sources said that located close to the iconic Mysuru Zoo, the proposed park is likely to enhance tourism appeal, drawing more visitors to the city. Officials say penguins will be brought from abroad and housed in controlled environments with artificial cooling systems and dedicated infrastructure, if implemented successfully, the project marks Karnataka joining select penguin-hosting regions in India hosting penguins.

— BMB

63-year-old Gajendra moved to safer camp

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered the transfer of Gajendra, the famous Dasara elephant, to the Mathigodu elephant camp in Kodagu. The 63-year-old elephant had been living alone at the Budipadaga elephant camp in Chamarajanagar for some time. Gajendra had participated in the Dasara festival multiple times. The decision to transfer him was taken following a social media campaign urging the Minister to move the elephant to a safer and more suitable environment. "Elephants are sensitive animals that live in groups. However, Gajendra has been living alone for some time, and the lack of company has emaciated him. He could not be sent to forest areas for grazing as he lacked the strength to protect himself in case of a wild elephant attack. We received several petitions from concerned citizens," said Khandre. The written order was issued on March 26, and Gajendra was shifted to Mathigodu on Tuesday.

— BMB

Court cracks down on illegal passport seizure over loan recovery

The Karnataka High Court has ordered prompt police action on a complaint filed by a Bengaluru-based senior citizen who alleged that his passport was illegally withheld by a lender in an attempt to recover a loan.

According to the petitioner, the lender took possession of his passport after he defaulted on repayment, effectively preventing him from travelling. He said that despite approaching the police multiple times, including filing complaints in December 2025 and February 2026, they failed to take meaningful action on his grievance. Taking note of the matter, Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum observed that the allegations, on the face of it, disclosed the commission of a cognisable offence. The court stressed that in such circumstances, the police cannot remain passive or resort to preliminary inquiries instead of initiating formal action.

It underscored that "once the complaint discloses a cognisable offence, the police are duty-bound to register a case and proceed in accordance with law," making it clear that hesitation or delay by law enforcement is not permissible. The court also expressed concern over the growing tendency to adopt coercive and extra-legal methods for debt recovery. It noted that acts such as forcibly retaining personal documents, including passports, cannot be justified under any circumstances.

In strong terms, the judge remarked that "such acts of taking custody of personal documents to compel repayment cannot be countenanced and would prima facie attract penal consequences." Highlighting the statutory framework, the court pointed out that such conduct may fall within the scope of the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest Act, 2004, which aims to curb exploitative lending practices and protect borrowers from harassment. The law provides for stringent penalties, including imprisonment and fines, for those found guilty of unlawful recovery tactics. The High Court also emphasised the vulnerability of senior citizens, observing that they often face a higher risk of intimidation and undue pressure in financial disputes. It said authorities must remain particularly vigilant in cases involving elderly complainants and ensure that their rights are protected. Allowing the petition, the court directed the jurisdictional police to act on the complaint without further delay and initiate appropriate legal proceedings. It reiterated that "inaction on the part of the police in the face of a cognisable offence cannot be sustained," and called for a thorough investigation into the allegations.

The ruling reinforces that debt recovery must follow due legal process, and any attempt to bypass the law through coercion or intimidation will invite serious consequences.

— BMB

IN HIGH COURT

Absconding accused denied relief as court backs ongoing fraud probe

The Karnataka High Court has refused to entertain a plea filed by a yoga instructor challenging his arrest in a case involving allegations of financial wrongdoing, holding that his own conduct disentitled him from seeking relief. The petitioner, Yugadev R, moved the court questioning the legality of his arrest in connection with accusations of cheating, criminal breach of trust, and misappropriation of funds. The case arose from complaints by several individuals who alleged that he persuaded them to invest money in a venture linked to him, only for them to later discover that their funds had been misused. During the proceedings, the court examined the circumstances leading up to the arrest and noted that the petitioner did not cooperate with the investigation. It pointed out that he remained out of reach of the authorities for a considerable period after the case was registered.

Taking a serious view of this, the court observed that "a person who has remained absconding cannot later seek discretionary relief from the court," making it clear that such behaviour weighs heavily against the grant of any protection. It further remarked that "evasion of the process of law is a relevant factor while considering such petitions," underscoring the importance of cooperating with investigative agencies.

The High Court emphasised that relief in matters relating to arrest is not automatic and must be granted cautiously, particularly when allegations involve financial irregularities affecting multiple complainants. It noted that the investigation remains at a crucial stage and that custodial interrogation of the accused may be necessary to uncover the full extent of the alleged misconduct.

Rejecting the argument that the arrest was unjustified, the court held that no grounds existed to interfere at this stage. It reiterated that courts should act cautiously in ongoing investigations unless clear evidence of abuse of process emerges.

— BMB

Chasing a modest total, Punjab Kings lost their way but fireworks from Australian put them back in the game

Connolly puts Punjab in control

1

Today's battle
Lucknow Super Giants
VS
Delhi Capitals
7.30 PM Ekana Cricket Stadium

Prabhsimran Singh and Cooper Connolly laid a good foundation with a solid 50-run partnership in their first match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, against Gujarat Titans at the PCA's New International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh on Tuesday. In the end Punjab managed to hold on to a battle of nerves though wickets fell thick and fast, thanks to a commendable knock by Conolly. Rashid Khan provided Gujarat Titans a key breakthrough by dismissing Prabhsimran Singh for 37. Soon after, Shreyas Iyer counterattacked with two back-to-back sixes, putting the pressure back on the bowler but Prasidh Krishna struck and got his wicket. Connolly held his end, but he did not get much support later on.

2

GT
162/6
(20)

PBKS
165/7
(19.1)

3

1. Punjab Kings' Vijaykumar Vyshak celebrates after taking the wicket of Gujarat Titans' Shahrukh Khan during the IPL 2026 match between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh on Tuesday
2. Gujarat Titans' Rashid Khan and teammates celebrate the wicket of Punjab Kings' Prabhsimran Singh
3. Punjab Kings' Cooper Connolly plays a shot

Vyshak strikes

Fast bowler Vijaykumar Vyshak took three wickets as Punjab Kings (PBKS) restricted Gujarat Titans (GT) to 162/6 in 20 overs.

Asked to bat first after losing the toss, the Gujarat Titans got off to a strong start with captain Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan looking in good touch. The duo scored freely and took the team to 35/0 at the end of the third over, scoring at more than 10 runs per over.

Punjab Kings struck early when Marco Jansen dismissed Sai Sudharsan in the fourth over with a short-pitched delivery. The opener made 13 off 11 balls.

Gill continued the scoring alongside Jos Buttler, who started cautiously and rotated the strike well. Gujarat Titans reached 54/1 at the end of the Power-play.

After the Power-play, Gill slowed down and took the role of anchoring the innings while keeping the scoreboard moving. The partnership was eventually broken in the 10th over when Gill was caught at mid-wicket by Cooper Connolly off Yuzvendra Chahal. Gill scored 39 off 27 balls, hitting six fours.

Glenn Phillips, who missed last season due to injury, picked up the pace in the 12th over with a six and a four off Chahal. However, he could not convert his start and was dismissed in the 14th over by Vyshak, caught at long-off by Jansen. He scored 25 off 17 balls.

At the other end, Buttler held the innings together but was dismissed in the 16th over by Chahal after scoring 38 off 33 balls, including three fours and two sixes. Washington Sundar struggled to get going and was dismissed for 18 off 16 balls in the 19th over.

Players understand their roles, each other's strengths and weaknesses: Krunal Pandya

Krunal Pandya, left, dives to field the ball as Sunrisers Hyderabad's Heinrich Klaasen during the match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru

RCB allrounder Krunal Pandya thinks that the clear environment within the team has enabled them to establish a more relaxed and confident rhythm after their championship win last season.

"I feel that this year there is a much calmer atmosphere. Last year it was a new team, and everyone got to know each other. This year, many players understand their roles and each other's strengths and weaknesses," he said.

Krunal also credited captain Rajat Patidar at the helm, saying, "Rajat has done a pretty amazing job captaining such a big franchise like RCB in his first season. The way he led the team last year was very special."

He also emphasised the trust he has in wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma behind the stumps. "A lot of credit goes to Jitesh behind the wickets as well. I feel very secure and trust him completely because wherever I bowl, he will grab the ball," he said.

Krunal noted that the passion of RCB fans became clear to him shortly after joining the team, highlighting the strong bond between the team and its supporters. "Last year, when we played our game against Chennai in the league stage and we were on the busI thought, People are so crazy about the team, and they want us to do well. We must win the trophy for the fans," he said.

Krunal also discussed the example set by Virat Kohli within the group, stating, "Virat is a classic example you can see that hunger; you can see that passion in how he sees the game and how much he wants that victory. If Virat Kohli had been born in any generation, he would still be one of the greats."

Krunal, the Player of the Match in last year's final, discussed his strategy for managing pressure during crucial moments, emphasizing that staying present has been essential. "When I get into the big occasions, I feel that if God has got you here, then there is a reason behind it. And sometimes I think that these big occasions are actually made for me. I feel the pressure, but I think about how I can be calm and in the present moment and do what is required"

Krunal thinks maintaining a long career in the sport relies on adapting to the changes in the game. "What I've realised is that to have longevity in any field, whether it's sport, whether it's business, you have to get better and you have to evolve. You can't be the same person or you can't have the same thought process to it." — IANS

RCB fan's IPL Fantasy win culminates in rare Captains' Day experience

Shubham flanked by all 10 IPL 2026 team captains

Shubham Agarwal, from Karnataka, who won 2nd rank globally in the official Indian Premier League Fantasy League 2025 in June last year among 4.4 lakh participants, attended the BCCI Captains' Day event for the Indian Premier League 2026 on March 25 at Mumbai - An exclusive prize besides a Royal Enfield Bike and IPL memorabilia autographed by the team RCB Winners of IPL 2025.

An alumnus of NITK Surathkal and IIM Bangalore, and currently a Manager at Kearney, he played in the name and style identifying himself as "Matadors." — BMB

Broadcast engineer found dead in room

The IPL governing council on Tuesday expressed deepest condolences on the untimely death of Jan William Langford, a British broadcast engineer who was working with the BCCI for the 2026 edition of the league, and assured help to his bereaved family.

The 76-year-old Langford was found unconscious in his room at a hotel in south Mumbai on Monday morning, following which he was rushed to a hospital by the hotel management. He was declared dead on arrival, an official said. — PTI

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For more details contacts: 9922444288, 9886246210, 9892341158 | Tickets available on Book My Show

EV showrooms almost out of stock as last-minute rush grips city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, we too are short of vehicles," said the outlet manager. Till Tuesday, buyers flocked to many of these outlets and picked up vehicles off the shelves, disregarding the model and colours of their choices. Some have also resorted to overdraft facilities to buy these EVs due to the lack of time to apply for and process car loans.

"I got to know about the new lifetime tax regime on EVs only on March 29. I had been contemplating buying a battery-operated vehicle for some time, but I have arrived at a decision now. A car loan application would have taken days, pushing my purchase beyond April 1, which would imply that I would have to pay Rs 1.5 lakh extra as the new road tax. So I opted to make the purchase utilising the overdraft facility, despite the high interest rate," said an EV buyer.

While an overdraft facility offers flexibility as interest is charged only on the utilised amount, it carries a higher and variable interest rate compared to lower and fixed interest rates under a car loan.

According to the Bill passed in the Karnataka Assembly last week, 5% to 10% of vehicle prices will be imposed on EV Cars based on their price at the time of registration. This policy shift implies that EV incentives in the state are reduced. Although EVs will still be cheaper to register than conventional fossil-fuel-based vehicles, the gap is reduced sharply.

Under the new tax regime, electric cars costing up to Rs 10 lakh will attract a lifetime tax of 5 percent of the total vehicle cost. Battery-operated cars in the range of Rs 10 to Rs 25 lakh will attract 8 percent of the total cost, and those above Rs 25 lakh will attract 10 percent of the total cost of the vehicle at the time of registration.

Most EVs in Karnataka till date enjoyed zero lifetime road tax, except those above Rs 25 lakh, which were already subjected to a lifetime tax of 10 percent.

Disturbing parcel to airport was 'protective measure'

A 65-year-old man was arrested by BIAL police for allegedly sending a disturbing parcel to the administrative office at Kempegowda International Airport, triggering panic among staff, with police stating that the accused claimed the parcel was a "protective" measure to prevent any untoward incident and ensure flight safety.

The accused, identified as Subhash Hajiji, was taken into custody on Tuesday following a complaint filed by Manjunatha, an administrative staff member. Police said the accused had frequented multiple locations within the airport premises between January 6 and January 22. During this period, he allegedly used the airport post office to dispatch a parcel addressed to the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) office.

Upon opening the parcel, officials discovered rotten tomatoes, decayed flower garlands, pieces of iron, used toothpaste covers, and nude photographs, which caused distress among employees.

According to a senior police official, the accused said his actions were driven by fears of a possible tragedy. Police officials revealed that he had no intention to harm anyone.

Police said the man, who has Indian roots and is originally from the Netherlands, was found wearing saffron attire resembling that of an astrologer, along with a garland, which drew attention during the investigation. Using CCTV footage and hotel checkout records, officers traced and detained him. Senior police officials said that the accused, who previously lived abroad and receives a monthly pension of about ₹2,000, has been travelling across countries using these funds and frequently visits India despite having no known relatives here. **BMB**

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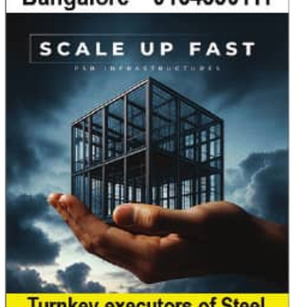

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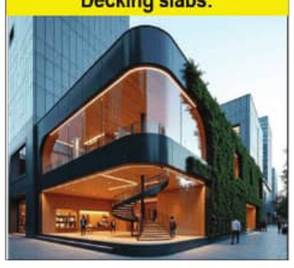

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suresh Rajashekar s/o Rajashekar Venkatappa Barandur R/o ward.16, Devangapete, Anekal, Bengaluru 562106 have changed my name to Suresh Barandur Rajashekar. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I ABDUL KHADER S/O Ameer Jan R/@ No 117 16th Main New Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 has changed my name to ABDUL KHALAQ for all purposes

I,JAYA prakash R/o. No-166, Rajatha,krishna rao sindhya road,vv puram, B'luru 560004 have changed my name to Jaya prakash.K.V for all purposes.

I, KISHOR V residing at Yagava Papishettyhalli, Gownipalli, Srinivasapura, Kolar, Karnataka - 563161 have changed my name to KISHORE V vide affidavit dated 31/03/2026 sworn before notary T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, Ranagaswamy Magadipalya Giriyappa, R/at Magadipalya, Yediyuru Hobli, Koppa Post, Tumkuru-572142, have changed my name to RANGASWAMY MAGADIPALYA GIRIYAPPA, vide affidavit dt: 15/03/2026 Notary V Anjanappa, B.lore.

I Akthar Ahmed S/O, R Abdul Subhan R/o No 99/1 Kogilu Layout Near St Michel School Kogilu Yelahanka Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to Mohammed Akthar Ahmed.

I, Pruthvi C G R/o 118 Ss Residency , Ff2 , Dwaraka Nagar 4th Main Road , Bda Link Road Channasandra Rr Nagar Bangalore 560098 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aathvi C P to Vivanshhi P, age 6 years

I, SYEAD NAWAB KHAN SARDAR, R/at No.15, 9th Main, KN Extension, Yeshwanthapur Post, Yeshwanthapur, Bangalore- 560 022, have changed my name to SYED NAWAB PASHA, vide affidavit dt: 30.03.2026 Notary A. Manjula, B.lore.

I, SADIQUE AHMED M, R/a.3,2nd Main Road, 4th Cross Anwar Lyt, Bengaluru-45 I, have Changed my name to SADIQ AHMED MADAR, Vide affidavit, dated 25/03/2026 Sworn before Notary: G Dayananda. Bangalore

I, Sudhir Kumar, Son of MMK Nambiar, residing at D22 Legacy Dimora, Jakkur , Yelahanka Bangalore - 560064, do hereby declare that Major Sudhir Kumar mentioned in DL JK 10 1999 0000390 and SAS Base Application 1601924522 is the same person as Sudhir Kumar mentioned in my Aadhaar Card. Both names refer to one and the same person. Declared via affidavit dated 07 Mar 26 sworn before Notary H Sridhar Rao

I, ANEES AHAMED ABDUL FIDA, R/a.11,4th Cross, Padarayanapura Bengaluru-26 I, have Changed my name to ANEES AHMED, Vide affidavit dated 31/03/2026 Sworn before Notary: M.K.Devaki. Bangalore

I, D S VISHALAKSHI BOY, residing at No. 136/1, Jyothi Nilaya, 8th Cross, Venkateshwara Temple, Marenahalli, J.P Nagar, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to VISHALAKSHI BAI D S, vide affidavit dated 23.03.2026, sworn before notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore.

I, WAHEEDA BEGUM V D, R/a.3, 2nd Main Road 4th Cross Anwar Lyt, Bengaluru-45. I, have Changed my name to WAHEEDA BEGUM VIRINGIPURAM OSMAN, Vide affidavit, dated 25/03/2026 Sworn before Notary: G Dayananda. Bangalore

I, Sreegiri Iju, R/at No.67/1, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main, New BEL road, Jaladarshani Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094, have changed my name to SREEGIRI MUKUNDAN, vide affidavit dt: 30/03/2026 Notary V Anjanappa, B.lore.

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5 TH APRIL 2026
Timings : 10.30 AM to 8.30 PM
WHITE HOUSE CONVENTION CENTRE
NEXT TO BDA COMPLEX, SECTOR 6, 14TH MAIN, HSR LAYOUT, BENGALURU - 560 102.
60+ STALLS | 10 DAYS EXHIBITION | ENTRY FREE & PARKING FREE
For Details Contact: 8073505441 / 6364685716

HEALTH TIP: Choose naturally sweet warm drinks like cinnamon or chamomile tea to curb sugar cravings, support digestion and reduce reliance on added sugars

Include buttermilk in daily diet to aid digestion, cool the body and maintain healthy gut balance with natural probiotics

EMBRACE LATE MOTHERHOOD

How to improve your chance of a healthy pregnancy after 35

Dr Jacquelyn Means knew that being pregnant in her late 30s would be challenging. "It is harder on your body. You just feel a lot more fatigued. There are certain complications to watch out for," said Means, a Texas OB-GYN who had her first child at 37 and her second at 39. "It's usually going to be fine, but there are things to be aware of." Like Means, more women are having babies later in life. A federal report showed that 21% of all births in the US were to women 35 and older in 2023, up from 9% in 1990. This "advanced maternal age" raises risks for both mothers and babies. Older pregnant women are more likely to have conditions like high blood pressure and obesity and are more prone to pregnancy complications. They are also more likely to undergo cesarean sections and give birth to twins or babies with genetic abnormalities.

But risks are generally low; they are just higher than average. Doctors say older mothers can still have healthy pregnancies with the right care and awareness.

Stay Healthy First

Before getting pregnant, maintaining good health is crucial. Dr Ashley Zink, a maternal-fetal specialist at the University of Texas Southwestern, said optimising health is like "building your baby's first home. "This includes eating a balanced diet, staying active and avoiding harmful habits like smoking.

"Make sure those good health habits that you've established over the course of your life are still in place," said Dr Michael Warren, chief medical and health officer for the March of Dimes. "If you have chronic diseases, make sure those are well-managed. Make sure you're getting regular preventive medical care."

Pregnancy places significant strain on the body. "Your volume of blood expands; it's harder work for your heart," Zink said. "And just the discomforts of pregnancy — all kinds of things — are a little bit better tolerated if you're in good physical condition."

Doctors recommend a preconception checkup to address health concerns, manage conditions and ensure vaccinations are up to date.

Tests and monitoring

During pregnancy, regular monitoring is essential. Doctors suggest a first-trimester ultrasound to confirm the due date, measure fetal growth and check for multiple pregnancies. Women over 35 are more likely to have twins or triplets due to hormonal factors or assisted reproductive techniques, increasing risks such as premature birth.

Noninvasive prenatal testing can screen for chromosomal abnormalities like Down syndrome and trisomy 13 or 18. According to Stanford Medicine Children's Health, the risk of Down syndrome rises significantly with age. If screening indicates risk, doctors may recommend further tests such as amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling.

Zink also recommends a growth ultrasound at 32 to 34 weeks. "It shows us if the placenta is still doing a good job," she said. "Do you have normal fluids? Do you have normal growth?" Late-stage ultrasounds can also detect fetal issues.

"We know that when women are pregnant later in life, there's an increased risk of birth defects," Warren said, especially cardiac conditions.

There is also a slightly higher risk of stillbirth, though it remains rare. "As the delivery date gets closer," Warren said, "it's so important to be mindful for those cues like fetal movement. Can you still feel the baby moving and kicking?"

> **If you have chronic diseases, make sure those are well-managed. Make sure you're getting regular preventive medical care**

Birth and risks

The likelihood of cesarean delivery increases with age, reaching about 48% for women aged 40 and older, according to the March of Dimes. C-sections carry higher risks of complications such as infection and bleeding compared to vaginal births.

Medical conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure can make vaginal delivery riskier, often leading to surgical births. Other complications during labor, including having a larger baby, can also necessitate a C-section.

Placenta-related problems are more common in older pregnancies and can lead to serious bleeding before or during labor. While such complications are not frequent, they remain important considerations.

Means experienced placenta-related complications and gestational diabetes in both pregnancies. After her first child, she required treatment for retained placenta and postpartum hemorrhage. After her second, she experienced severe bleeding and needed hospital care.

"So both of my babies tried to kill me a little bit," she joked. "Once I got past all those bleeding issues, I've been fine … And both my kids are super healthy, so I'm thankful for that."

— AP

MIRRORLIGHTS

Whole grain deficiency raising serious health concerns

Indians are consuming only about 10 per cent of the recommended whole grain intake, a habit that is contributing to a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases across the country, a white paper has revealed.

The white paper titled 'Opportunities with Whole Grains to Support Metabolic Health among Indians: Evidence Mapping' stated that despite having over 20 millet varieties available, the shift toward refined alternatives is stripping essential vitamins and minerals from diets.

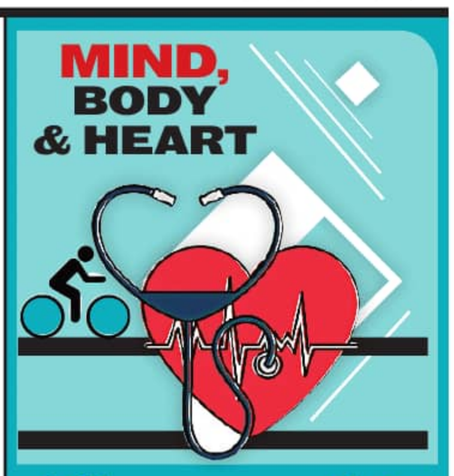
According to the report, India's average daily consumption of whole grains stands at approximately 42 gm, which is just 10 per cent of the total daily grain intake of 432 gm. This is significantly lower than the 125 gm per day recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN).

The expert-led evidence-mapping exercise was released by the Protein Foods and Nutrition Development Association of India (PFNDAI), in collaboration with ITC.

The report noted that while India has strong agronomic capacity with multiple millet varieties, the country lacks policy focus and public awareness to improve consumption patterns.

Non-communicable diseases such as obesity, hypertension, type-2 diabetes and cardiovascular conditions are rising rapidly, driven largely by dietary shifts away from fibre-rich whole grains toward refined foods.

It also highlighted that processing removes bran and germ, stripping grains of nutrients like vitamins B1 and B6, folate, zinc, magnesium, iron and other essential elements, making them calorie-dense but nutritionally poor. The report recommended promoting fortified whole grain flours, nutrition awareness initiatives, and sustained research to support healthier dietary practices. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Protein power

20g of protein daily
Protein is one of the most essential nutrients required for building and repairing muscles, supporting energy levels, and keeping you full throughout the day. Many people struggle to meet their daily protein needs, especially busy schedules and limited meal planning. However, reaching around 20 grams of protein per meal is simpler than it seems with the right ingredients and combinations.

Simple meal ideas
Grilled chicken salad is one of the easiest ways to hit the protein target, combining lean meat with fresh vegetables. Greek yogurt paired with nuts and seeds offers a quick and nutritious option, while an egg and vegetable scramble provides a filling and versatile meal. A tuna sandwich on whole grain bread is convenient for busy days and adds both protein and fibre.

Plant based options
For those preferring vegetarian meals, quinoa and black bean bowls deliver complete protein along with essential nutrients. Lentil soup with vegetables is another hearty choice that keeps you full and supports overall health. Cottage cheese with fruits also makes for a light yet protein-rich option that can be consumed at any time of the day.

Quick meal solutions
Protein smoothies are ideal for people on the go and can be customised with milk, fruits and nut butter for added nutrition. Grilled salmon with steamed vegetables provides a balanced, protein-rich dinner along with healthy fats. These simple meals prove that with minimal effort, it is possible to maintain a protein-rich diet that supports overall health and daily energy needs effectively. — Femina

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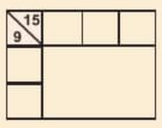
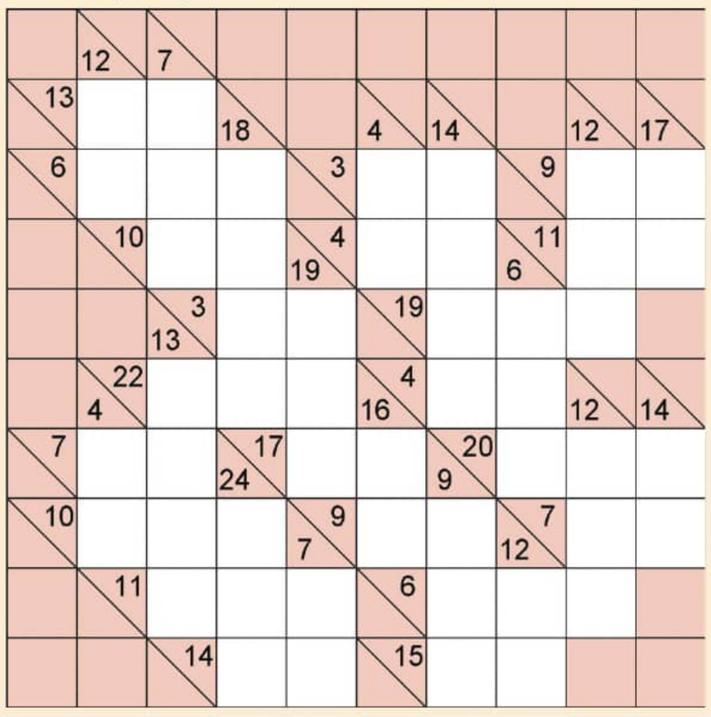
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

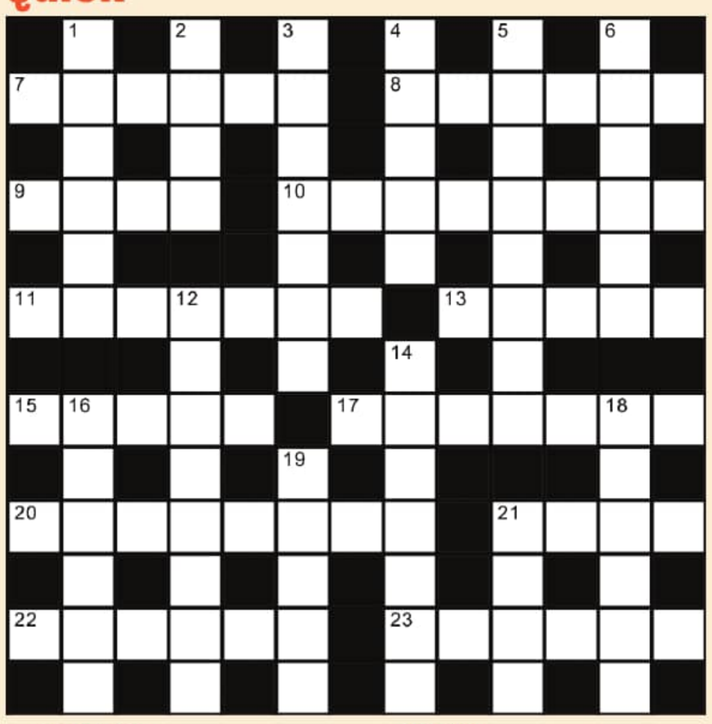
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 One lacking in pigment (6)
8 ___ a lie : proved the falsehood ? (6)
9 K Asif's magnum opus Mughal-e-___ (4)
10 Descriptive of a cold room perhaps (8)
11 Put up (7)
13 Initial (5)
15 Fit out (5)
17 Famous music conductor–"rag sent" anagram? (7)
20 An easy task (8)
21 One Caribbean republic (4)
22 Very strong ale (6)
23 Protect from harm (6)

DOWN

1 Light sports jacket (6)
2 Motion picture (4)
3 Big books (7)
4 National park home to tigers, panthers and elephants (5)
5 Publishing and distributing books etc. without proper licence or author's permission (8)
6 Round flat caps (6)
12 Dostoevski's ___ ____ Punishment (5,3)
14 Donkey (7)
16 British liquid measures (6)
18 A cricket sundry (2-4)
19 Drawing room (5)
21 Fibre obtained from coconut husks (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS N

NH OWN'V PJCFUD UV WV GHHF WV MUV OHNCS.

Linemaro

You don't know how many times I've had to swipe left to find you

Mindchow

Love is what happens to a man and woman who don't know each other

Joke of the day

First the doctor told me the good news: I was going to have a disease named after me

Loop

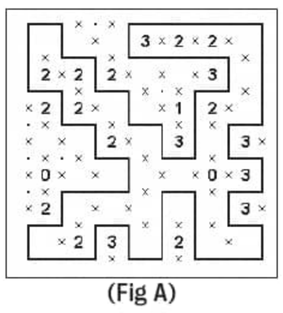
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

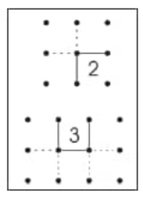
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

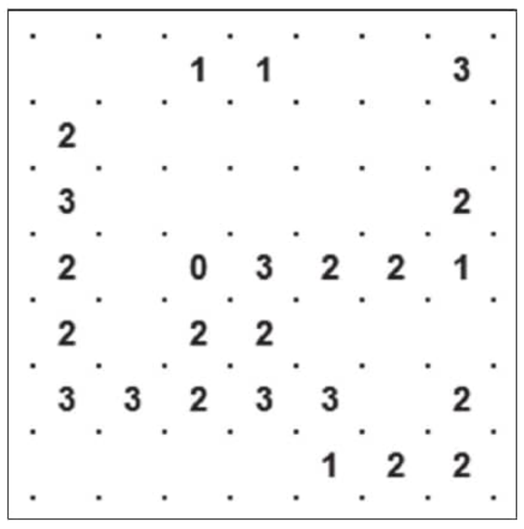
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



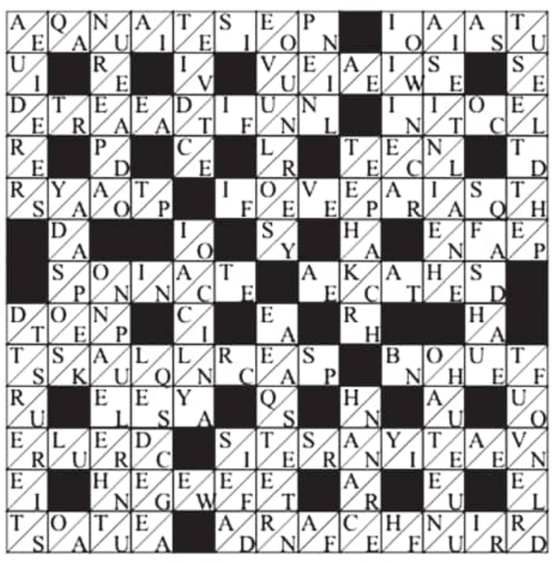
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



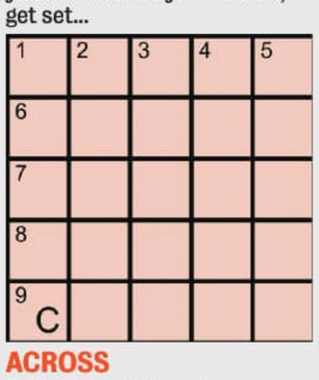
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

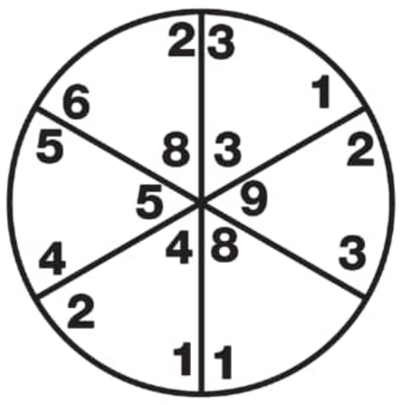
1 Sh Plu; 6 Ah pal; 7 Snap a; 8 Inter; 9 Rocky

DOWN

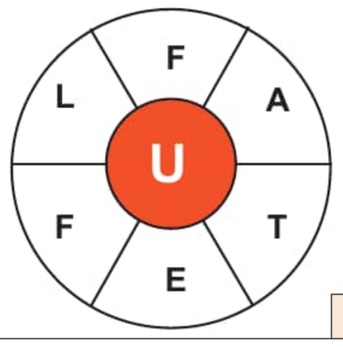
1 In Cap; 2 No all; 3 Up Pre; 4 Harks; 5 Shy at

Mensapuzzle

Which number is needed to complete the wheel?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4								1
		1	8		9	7		
		9	6		7	2		
9	2		3		8		6	5
1	7		4		5		2	9
		8	7		6	4		
		6	1		2	5		
5								7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

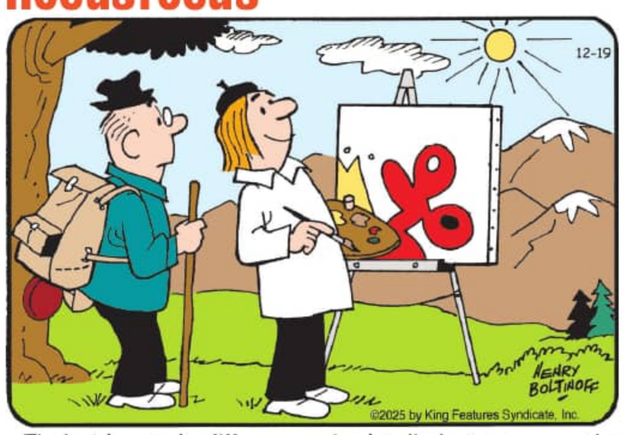
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
1 9 5 4

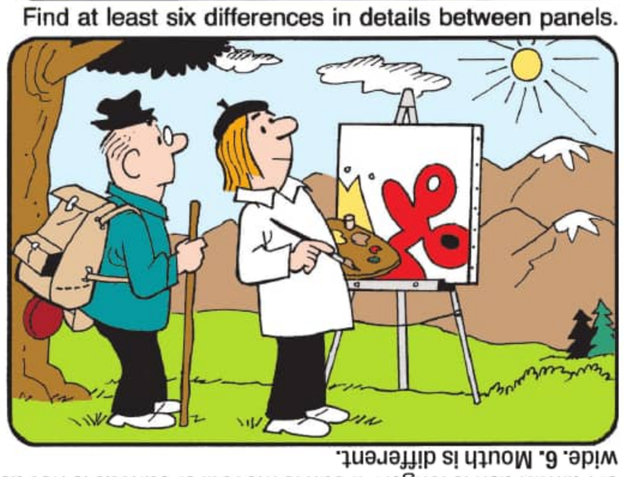
Medium = 21
2 3 7 1

Hard = 4
2 2 4 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



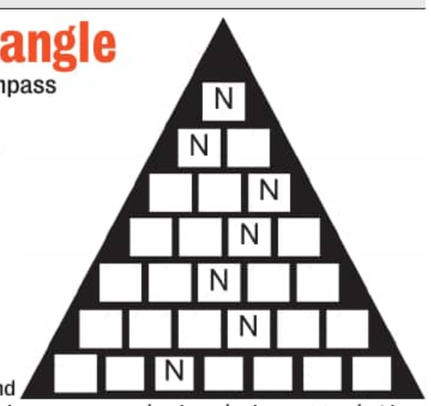
Differences: 1. Leg is added to easel. 2. Beret is larger. 3. Paintbrush is longer. 4. Sun is moved. 5. Canvas is not as wide. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Carrow, Roam, Sophia & Soul

Alpha triangle

1 North on the compass
2 Nah
3 Junior
4 Important times
5 Seville mister
6 Old hags
7 Consults



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

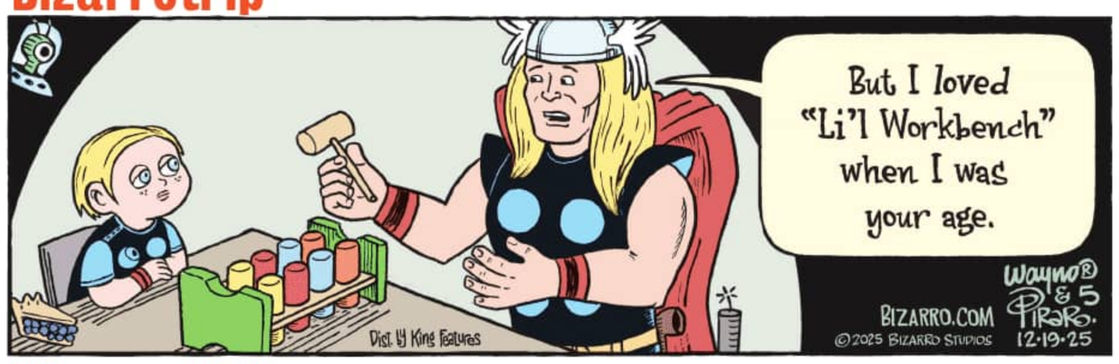
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

MOLLY MUDHOOK HAS CONNED SAILORS IN EVERY WORLD PORT!!
SHE IS AN ARFUL CROOK!
NO SEAFARIN' SWAB IS SAFE FROM HER CON-ARTIST TRICKS!
LOOK, POPEYE! I BOUGHT STOCK WIT' ME THOUSING BUCKS!
6-30
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I CAN HAVE PEOPLE OVER FOR MY BIRTHDAY. THAT'S BASICALLY A PARTY.
DEAN, A PARTY AND "HAVING PEOPLE OVER" ARE NOT THE SAME THING.
A PARTY HAS WAY MORE FOOD.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your birthday opens a year of fresh momentum and unexpected possibilities. Travel plans begin forming sooner than you think, possibly linked to work opportunities. Romance feels warm and reassuring today, while finances show steady improvement through smart decisions. At home, laughter and shared meals restore your energy. Celebrate boldly; the year ahead rewards courage, curiosity, and consistent effort daily dedication.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Feeling trapped in disappointing relationships, Aries? Change begins once you release what hurts and trust the universe. Ground yourself through reflection or hobbies. Clarity arrives, helping you recognize growth and consciously welcome healthier connections.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Someone or something recently restored hope, Taurus, revealing light ahead. Stand firm and stay focused on what you're building. Reflect carefully before committing. Your joy comes from dedication and love, guiding you steadily toward your highest path.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Protect the happiness you've worked hard to build, Gemini. Stand strong for what matters. Celebrate your achievements and loyal circle. Your future promises security and abundance, so relax, lead confidently, and enjoy the journey ahead.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Challenge complacency and release ideas that no longer serve you, Cancer. New energy awakens strength and fresh perspectives. Trust yourself and your guides. Soon clarity will arrive; until then, remain steadfast and detach from outdated patterns.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Balancing different worlds, momentum increases, Leo. Use clear judgment to remove distractions and make space for your envisioned future. Follow your inner voice, devote yourself to purpose and loved ones, and transformation will unfold quickly.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your intuition and spiritual awareness are expanding, Virgo, guiding you away from deception toward truth. Value emotional and mental wellbeing. Release nostalgic sorrow; those lessons are complete. Step forward confidently into this richer, wiser chapter.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Creating something new requires working with what you have, Libra. Growth and achievement rarely arrive easily. A recent shift empowers you to shine. Embrace your uniqueness and welcome opportunities bringing lasting peace and abundance.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

A major opportunity approaches requiring creativity and insight, Scorpio. Your initiation phase has ended; now seek balance and harmony. Support appears where loneliness existed. Open your heart, honour life's delicate equilibrium, and step confidently forward.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Have you been guarding your resources too tightly, Sagittarius? The universe encourages generosity and trust. Revisit your original purpose of sharing and community. Leap forward bravely, knowing openness invites abundance and rewarding opportunities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Stop constantly fighting for others, Capricorn, and advocate for yourself sometimes. Pause before commitments, assert your needs, and build independence. Strengthen skills managing finances, health, and priorities to create space for growth and fulfillment.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

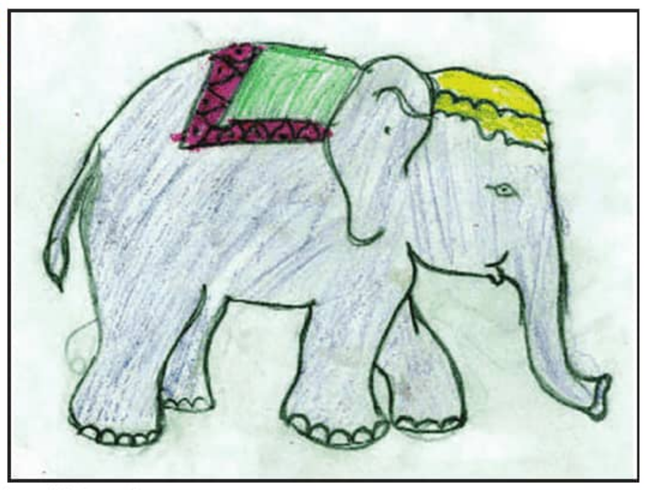
Feeling left behind lately, Aquarius? This pause is temporary. Use it to seek support, speak boldly, and break limiting patterns. Imposter syndrome shrinks your brilliance, share your wisdom confidently and let others recognize your value.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Pisces, emerge gently from emotional depths and celebrate simple joys daily. Trust unseen cosmic support guiding your creativity. Release what's leaving without resistance; that space invites new inspiration, blessings, and meaningful opportunities.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Preethi, Bengaluru

Balaji, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(27^-5) * 3 =
3^-15(3) =
3^-14

BULL'S EYE

FATEFUL, fault, flue, flute, fuel, lute

STRIKE OUT

S	A	T	E		A	R	A	C	H	N	I	D		
E					N	G	W	E		R		E		
I		N												
R	U	E	D		S	T	R	A	I	T	E	N		
U		L	E	Y		S		N		A		U		
S	K	U	L	L	C	A	P		B	O	U	T		
T	O	P		I		E		H						
	P	O	N	C	E		A	C	T	E	D			
	A		I		S		A		N	A	E			
R	Y	O	T		F	E	V	E	R	I	S	H		
E		D		E		L		T	E	N		T		
D	R	E	A	D	F	U	L		N	I	C	E		
I		R		I		V	I	E	W	S		E		
E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N		O	A	S	T		

FAST FIVE

P	L	U	S	H
A	L	P	H	A
N	A	P	A	S
I	N	E	R	T
C	O	R	K	Y

QUOTE UNCODE

No man's credit is as good as his money.

QUICK

S			D			N			S			R		L
S	T	I	N	G		O			S	H	I	E	L	D
R			A			L			A		O		A	
C	A	K	E	W	A	L	K		C	U	B	A		
U			M			S			C			O		
E	Q	U	I	P		S	A	R	G	E	N	T		
E	R	E	C	T	E	D		F	I	R	S	T		
E				M			I		T		T			
A	Z	A	M		U	N	H	E	A	T	E	D		
A		L		L		O		N	A	I	L	E	D	
B	L	A	C	K		P		B		R				
B		F		V		A								

MENSA PUZZLE

7. Add together the numbers on the outside of each segment and put the result at the centre of the opposite segment.

RIDDLER

They are all homophones of capitalic cities

SUDOKU

5	1	2	9	8	4	6	3	7
7	4	6	1	3	2	5	9	8
3	9	8	7	5	6	4	1	2
1	7	3	4	6	5	8	2	9
6	8	5	2	9	1	3	7	4
9	2	4	3	7	8	1	6	5
8	5	9	6	1	7	2	4	3
2	3	1	8	4	9	7	5	6
4	6	7	5	2	3	9	8	1

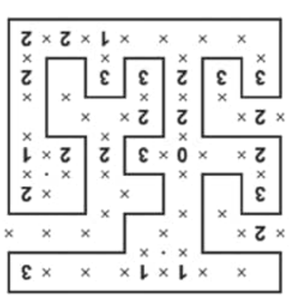
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, No, Son, Eons, Senor, Crones, Conifers.

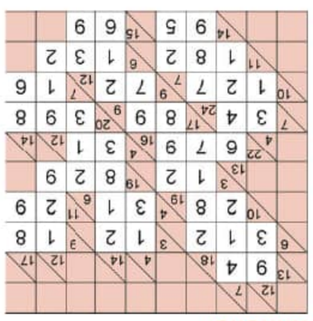
GO FIGURE

4 - 9 + 5 + 1 = 1
Easy
7 + 3 x 2 + 1 = 21
Medium
8 / 2 x 2 - 4 = 4
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Small break
Hollywood star Zendaya said she will be "disappearing" for a while following a lineup of her back-to-back films

LARA CONQUERS FEAR

Near drowning scare shaped Lara Dutta's fearless comeback journey

Lara Dutta, one of Bollywood's most loved actresses, had a scary experience early in her career. While shooting a dance scene in the sea for her first film Andaaz with Akshay Kumar, she got caught in strong waves. The actress struggled to stay steady as the waves intensified. She escaped without harm, but the incident left her shaken and taught her how risky shooting in natural settings can be.

Speaking to Asian Television Network Canada, she recalled, "I went underwater, wearing leather, didn't know how to swim, and sank like a rock." Akshay Kumar, who stood nearby, pulled her out just in time. The incident left her in hypothermic shock, and the team stopped the shoot immediately and rushed her to the hospital. The experience had a lasting impact on her and shaped how she approached her work. When Akshay later suggested her name for Blue, she admitted she could not accept the role because of her fear of water. She said, "I couldn't take it up," explaining how deeply the incident affected her. He then gave her simple advice: "Learn swimming."

At 30, Lara faced the fear she had carried for years. "At 30, he asked me to learn diving. I said, 'Mai hi pagal mili hoon' (Do you think I am crazy?)," she said, laughing at the memory. Instead of stepping away, she chose to confront it. She began swimming lessons, built her confidence gradually, and eventually performed underwater scenes in Blue, marking a personal milestone.

Released in 2009 and directed by Anthony D'Souza, the film also featured Sanjay Dutt and Zayed Khan. Though it did not succeed at the box office, it remained significant for her journey.

Lara last appeared in Ishq-e-Nadaan (2023), alongside with an ensemble cast. —ETimes

Shetty-Shroff reunion

After previously sharing the screen with Jackie Shroff in memorable films such as 'Border', 'Refugee', and 'Baaz: A Bird In Danger', Suniel Shetty is now all set to team up with Jackie's son, Tiger Shroff, for an exciting new project.

Their upcoming collaboration has already generated buzz among fans, marking a new chapter in the long-standing camaraderie between the Shetty and Shroff families. According to reports, Suniel has officially joined the cast of Tiger's next film, and the pairing is expected to bring together experience and youthful energy on screen.

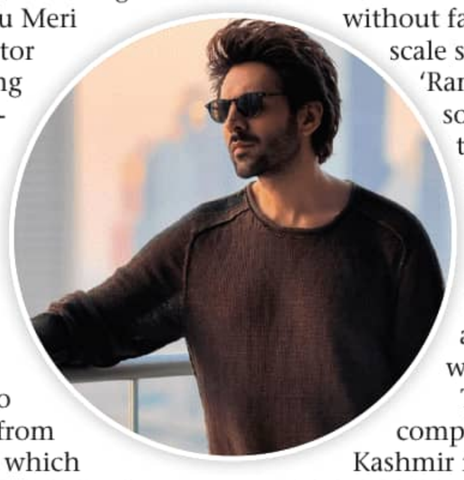
According to a report by Variety India, Suniel's character details remain under tight wraps, though he will play a key role in the action-packed thriller led by Tiger. The film will go on floors on April 10 in Mumbai, with grand sets coming up in Goregaon and Malad. The team aims to wrap up shooting by July 2026.

Kannada filmmaker Sachin Ravi, known for directing Avane Srimannarayan, will helm the yet-untitled project. The film marks his Hindi debut after 'Ashwatthama: The Saga Continues', starring Shahid Kapoor, got shelved due to budget constraints.

After 'Baaghi 4', Tiger has moved on to Raj Mehta's 'Lag Jaa Gale' with Janhvi Kapoor and Lakshya. He also has Ram Madhvani's 'Vajra' lined up. Meanwhile, Suniel's 'Welcome to the Jungle' will be released on June 26. —ETimes

Kartik juggles timelines

Kartik Aaryan is currently navigating a hectic work schedule as he simultaneously shoots for filmmaker Kabir Khan's next and Anurag Basu's romantic musical Tu Meri Zindagi Hai. The actor is reportedly aligning both timelines carefully to ensure the latter wraps up in time, especially to avoid a box office clash with Ramayana: Part 1. The makers intend to complete 'Tu Meri Zindagi Hai' early to avoid competition from 'Ramayana: Part 1', which stars Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi and Yash and is expected to dominate screens during Diwali.



According to Mid-Day, Anurag Basu and the team are looking for sufficient breathing room at the box office, aiming for a smooth theatrical run without facing a large-scale spectacle like 'Ramayana'. The source also mentioned that with Drishyam 3 being the only major release in October, producer Bhushan Kumar and Basu are considering that window.

The film has already completed a schedule in Kashmir featuring Kartik and co-star Sreeleela, with the next phase set for Manali. —ETimes

Showgirl dispute erupts

Pop star Taylor Swift may just be heading to court, and it's not for the lawsuit linked to her friend, Blake Lively, but her own legal drama.

According to recent reports, the singer now faces a lawsuit in a California federal court over alleged trademark infringement tied to her album title The Life of a Showgirl. Filed five months after the album's October 5 release, the suit claims the title infringes on performer and writer Maren Wade's column Confessions of a Showgirl.

Wade names Swift and UMG Recordings as defendants and brings claims of trademark infringement, false designation and unfair competition, according to The Hollywood Reporter. She seeks unspecified damages and an injunction to stop further use of the title.

Wade states she built her brand in 2014 through her Las Vegas Weekly column, drawing from her experience in the entertainment industry. Swift sought approval, denied by USPTO; she may buy claim or fight amid lively lawsuit. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Rakshitha backs 'Idiot'

Rakshitha, who made debut by playing a female lead in Telugu movie Idiot, is supporting a Kannada movie with similar title – Idiot. Rakshitha and her husband Prem launched a production house – Phoenix Prems Studios on the auspicious occasion of Sri Rama Navami. Now, Rakshitha, impressed by the script narrated by Manjunath BS, has agreed to back the movie.

Manjunath, who has been associated with his guru and mentor Prem for more than a decade, is set to become an independent director in Sandalwood. "I have been working under the guidance of my guru and well-wisher director Prem for more than a decade.

I worked as an associate for Kannada movies KD, The Devil, and Ek Love Ya. I have experience of penning lyrics for a few Kannada movies. I am very happy to have the opportunity to direct the movie Idiot.

I want to be grateful to director Prem and Rakshitha Prem for their support and encouragement", said debutant director Manjunath.

Hat-trick for Krishna

Despite controversies, Kannada movie Love Mocktail 3 has been screening successfully across the state and abroad. The team of Love Mocktail 3 organised a success meet at MMB Legacy recently, bringing together actors and technicians associated with Love Mocktail, Love Mocktail 2, and Love Mocktail 3.

Darling Krishna and his better half Milana Nagaraj thanked everyone who contributed to the film's strong box-office performance. The film's team credited consistent audience support across Karnataka and overseas markets for sustaining its theatrical run and ensuring repeat viewership in several key cities.

The movie was distributed by KVN Productions across the state and internationally. Suprith of KVN Productions described the film as the first major success of the year and said he had watched it a few days before its release. "With postponement of the Pan-India movie Toxic release, we decided to release Love Mocktail 3. Toxic was supposed to arrive in theatres on March 19 but got postponed to June 4. Milana Nagaraj felt emotional over film's success.